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April 9, 2015

Friends,

I want to personally share an announcement with you as the stakeholders and friends of the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Deaf Services. On Tuesday April 7th I submitted my resignation as the Director of Deaf Services for DMH. As many of you know, I have a family with young children. The travel required of this position has been tough for me to balance work demands and my desire to be active with my family. In addition, I have felt my heart pulling me back to doing direct clinical work with clients.

I have recently accepted a position as a team leader/clinician with a deaf services program in Kansas where I can get back to doing clinical work and be closer to my family. I want to sincerely thank DMH for an amazing and positive experience during my time as Director of Deaf Services. During my tenure the Department has been supportive of creating and maintaining a strong system of care for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Missouri and I am sure it will continue to do so after my departure. I have also enjoyed getting to know and work closely with each of you from this role. I hope that your relationship with DMH will continue and that each of you will offer DMH your support and guidance in the years to come. I look forward to continued collaborative relationships with you from my new position.

Thank you!

Elijah Buchholz

The Department announced today that Bob Bax, DMH Deputy Director, will temporarily serve as the acting director of Deaf Services as the Department recruits to permanently fill the Deaf Services leadership position. DMH plans an open recruitment and hiring process that will involve key stakeholders of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

"Elijah Buchholz has provided strong leadership for the DMH Office of Deaf Services during the last few years," Bax said. "He has laid a good foundation for communication and an understanding of the needs of Missouri's Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The Department wishes Elijah well in his new position."